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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:

NATURAL RESOURCES

POPULATION

STATISTICS

Report of the First (Economic) Committee

A. Natural resources

1. The First (Economic) Committee considered the question of natural resources (agenda item 8 (e)) at its 5th, 6th and 16th meetings, on 15 and 23 July 1991. It had before it the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its twelfth session (E/1991/29). 1/

2. At its 5th and 6th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on the questions of natural resources (agenda item 8 (e)) population (agenda item 8 (f)) and statistics (agenda item 8 (g)).

3. At the 5th meeting, on 15 July, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Chief of the Energy and Resources Branch of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 9 (E/1991/29).

4. At the 6th meeting, on 15 July, statements were made by the representatives of Austria, the Netherlands (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Community), Algeria, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Japan, China, Bahrain, Argentina, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Pakistan, Czechoslovakia and Morocco and the observers for Denmark (on behalf of the Nordic countries) and Egypt. Statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Meteorological Organization.

Recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Natural Resources

5. Chapter I, sections A and B, of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its twelfth session contained eight draft resolutions and three draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council.

6. At the 16th meeting, on 23 July, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ahmed Amaziane (Morocco), informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on the recommendations contained in the report.

International Conference on Water and the Environment

7. At the 16th meeting, on 23 July, the Committee adopted draft resolution I entitled "International Conference on Water and the Environment" (see para. 18 below, draft resolution I).

Water resources development and progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan

8. At the 16th meeting, on 23 July, the Committee adopted draft resolution II entitled "Water resources development and progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan" (see para. 18 below, draft resolution II).

Development and efficient use of energy resources

9. At the 16th meeting, on 23 July, the Committee adopted draft resolution III entitled "Development and efficient use of energy resources" (see para. 18 below, draft resolution III).

Trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources

10. At the 16th meeting, on 23 July, the Committee adopted draft resolution IV entitled "Trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources" (see para. 18 below, draft resolution IV).

Permanent sovereignty over natural resources

11. At the 16th meeting, on 23 July, the Committee adopted draft resolution V entitled "Permanent sovereignty over natural resources" (see para. 18 below, draft resolution V).

New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing natural resources

12. At the 16th meeting, on 23 July, the Committee adopted draft resolution VI entitled "New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing natural resources" (see para. 18 below, draft resolution VI).

Coordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources

13. At the 16th meeting, on 23 July, the Committee adopted draft resolution VII entitled "Coordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources" (see para. 18 below, draft resolution VII).

United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

14. At the 16th meeting, on 23 July, the Committee adopted draft resolution VIII entitled "United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration" (see para. 18 below, draft resolution VIII).

International Conference on Water and the Environment

15. At the 16th meeting, on 23 July, the Committee adopted draft decision I entitled "International Conference on Water and the Environment" (see para. 19 below, draft decision I).

Disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources

16. At the 16th meeting, on 23 July, the Committee adopted draft decision II entitled "Disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources" (see para. 19 below, draft decision II).

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its twelfth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirteenth session of the Commission

17. At the 16th meeting, on 23 July, the Committee adopted draft decision III entitled "Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its twelfth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirteenth session of the Committee" (see para. 19 below, draft decision III).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

18. The First (Economic) Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

[FOR THE TEXT OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS I TO VIII, SEE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES ON
ITS TWELFTH SESSION
(E/1991/29, CHAP. I, SECT. A)]

19. The First (Economic) Committee also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

[FOR THE TEXT OF DRAFT DECISIONS I TO III, SEE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES ON ITS TWELFTH SESSION (E/1991/29, CHAP. I, SECT. B)]

B. Population

20. The First (Economic) Committee considered the question of population (agenda item 8 (f)) at its 5th, 6th and 16th meetings, on 15 and 23 July 1991. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for a 1994 international meeting on population (E/1991/5);

(b) Report of the Population Commission on its twenty-sixth session (E/1991/27); 2/

(c) Report of the Population Commission Acting as the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 International Meeting on Population (E/1991/47) and the statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution entitled "International Conference on Population and Development" submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council (E/1991/47/Add.1).

21. At its 5th and 6th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on the questions of population, natural resources and statistics (see paras. 2 and 4 above).

22. At the 6th meeting, on 15 July, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, the Director of the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Director of the Technical and Evaluation Division of the United Nations Population Fund.

Recommendations contained in the report of the Population Commission

23. Chapter I, sections A and B, of the report of the Population Commission on its twenty-sixth session contained one draft resolution and one draft decision recommended for adoption by the Council.

24. At the 16th meeting, on 23 July, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ahmed Amaziane (Morocco), informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on the recommendations contained in the report.

2/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 7 (E/1991/27).

Work programme in the field of population

25. At the 16th meeting, on 23 July, the Committee adopted the draft resolution entitled "Work programme in the field of population" (see para. 32 below, draft resolution I).

Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission

26. At the 16th meeting, on 23 July, the Committee adopted the draft decision entitled "Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-seventh session of the Population Commission" (see para. 33 below, draft decision I).

Recommendations contained in the report of the Population Commission Acting as the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 International Meeting on Population

27. Chapter I of the report of the Population Commission acting as the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 International Meeting on Population contained one draft resolution for adoption by the Council.

28. At the 16th meeting, on 23 July, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Amaziane (Morocco), informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution.

29. The Committee's attention was drawn to the statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

International Conference on Population and Development

30. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution entitled "International Conference on Environment and Development" (see para. 32 below, draft resolution II).

Other proposals

Report of the Population Commission Acting as the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 International Meeting on Population

31. At the 16th meeting, on 23 July, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee took note of the report of the Population Commission Acting as the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 International Meeting on Population (E/1991/47), together with the statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution entitled "International Conference on Population and Development" submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council (E/1991/47/Add.1) (see para. 33 below, draft decision II).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

32. The First (Economic) Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

[FOR THE TEXT OF DRAFT RESOLUTION I, SEE REPORT OF THE POPULATION COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION (E/1991/27, CHAP.I, SECT. A)]

[FOR THE TEXT OF DRAFT RESOLUTION II, SEE REPORT OF THE POPULATION COMMISSION ACTING AS THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 1994 INTERNATONAL MEETING ON POPULATION (E/1991/47, CHAP. I]

33. The First (Economic) Committee also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

[FOR THE TEXT OF DRAFT DECISION I, SEE REPORT OF THE POPULATION COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION (E/1991/27, CHAP.I, SECT. B)]

DRAFT DECISION II

Report of the Population Commission Acting as the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 International Meeting on Population

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Population Commission Acting as the Preparatory Committee for the 1994 International Meeting on Population, 3/ together with the statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution entitled "International Conference on Population and Development" submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council. 4/

C. Statistics

34. The First (Economic) Committee considered the question of statistics (agenda item 8 (g)) at its 5th, 6th, 14th and 18th meetings, on 15, 19 and 24 July 1991. It had before it the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-sixth session (E/1991/25); 5/

3/ E/1991/47.

4/ E/1991/47/Add.1.

5/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 5 (E/1991/25).

35. At its 5th and 6th meetings, the Committee held a general discussion on the questions of statistics and natural resources and population (see paras. 2 and 4 above).

36. At the 5th meeting, on 15 July, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Director of the Statistical Office of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

37. Also at the 5th meeting, the representative of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development made a statement.

Patterns of consumption and qualitative indicators of development

38. At the 14th meeting, on 19 July, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (E/1991/C.1/L.11) entitled "Patterns of consumption and qualitative indicators of development" and orally revised it by:

(a) Adding the words "on the basis of extrabudgetary support" at the end of operative paragraph 3;

(b) Inserting the words "and relevant multilateral agencies" after the words "Invites donor countries" in operative paragraph 4;

(c) Reversing the order of operative paragraphs 3 and 4.

39. At the 18th meeting, on 24 July, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Ahmed Amaziane (Morocco), informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution and revised it as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 2, the words "on the basis of the outcome of the first high-level meeting and needed further research", was inserted after the words "indicators of development";

(b) In operative paragraph 3, the word "interested" was inserted after the word "Invites";

(c) In operative paragraph 6, the word "Requests" was replaced by the word "Invites" and the words ", as appropriate," were inserted after the words "to use";

(d) In operative paragraph 7, the words "to report to the Economic and Social Council, at its regular session of 1992, on the implementation of the present resolution" were replaced by the words "to present an oral report to the Economic and Social Council, at its regular session of 1992 on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution".

40. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution E/1991/C.1/L.11, as orally revised (see para. 43 below).

Recommendation contained in the report of the Statistical Commission

41. Chapter I, section A, of the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-sixth session, contained one draft decision for adoption by the Council.

Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission

42. At the 18th meeting, on 24 July, the Committee adopted the draft decision entitled "Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission" (see para. 44 below).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIRST (ECONOMIC) COMMITTEE

43. The First (Economic) Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Patterns of consumption and qualitative indicators of development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 40/179 of 17 December 1985 and 44/234 of 22 December 1989,

Recalling also its resolutions 1987/6 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/4 of 22 May 1989,

Recalling further the reports of the Statistical Commission on the work of its twenty-fourth, twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions, 6/ in particular the sections on development indicators,

Recalling the work of the relevant United Nations organizations, in particular the Statistical Office of the Secretariat and the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, on qualitative indicators of development,

Reiterating that the subject of patterns of consumption and related socio-economic indicators is of considerable importance and high priority for developing countries,

Encouraging countries, in this regard, to improve their basic statistical programmes and capabilities and to make efforts to develop the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of data relating to patterns of consumption, and inviting the international community to strengthen the national capabilities of the developing countries with respect to the collection of integrated socio-economic data and their processing, in particular by microcomputer, with a view to having better and more up-to-date data,

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6/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 6 (E/1987/19); ibid., 1989, Supplement No. 3 (E/1989/21); and ibid., 1991, Supplement No. 5 (E/1991/25).

Convinced of the necessity to preserve, in the long term, balance between resources, population, environment and development, taking into account the advances made in science and technology and the need to make progress in the transfer of technological innovations to developing countries,

Stressing that the development of indicators tailored to the fundamental economic and socio-cultural needs of the population in the fields of food, clothing, housing, education, health care and necessary social services would help to orient national development and support international cooperation by helping Governments to formulate and follow policies better geared to human development,

Stressing also that the identification of indicative patterns of consumption and the development of qualitative indicators of development would be extremely useful in the evaluation of the progress achieved in the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade and would make a substantial contribution to the work of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in 1992,

Stressing further the need for harmonization of the work of the United Nations system on qualitative indicators of development,

1. Notes that the High-level Meeting of Experts on Social Development Indicators, envisaged by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/234, was held at Rabat from 8 to 11 April 1991 under the auspices of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to organize, in close consultation with the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, the Statistical Office of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organization, in New York or Geneva, another high-level meeting of experts with a view to further advancing the work on qualitative indicators of development on the basis of the outcome of the first high-level meeting and needed further research, bearing in mind the need to ensure wider participation and collaboration of different scientific and technical disciplines;

3. Invites interested donor countries and relevant multilateral agencies to make voluntary contributions to the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development for the purpose of holding in good time the meeting referred to in paragraph 2 above, and the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organization to assist in supporting such a meeting;

4. Requests the regional commissions to organize workshops aimed at disseminating the concept of qualitative indicators of development on the basis of extrabudgetary support;

5. Requests the Statistical Commission to keep the issue of patterns of consumption and qualitative indicators of development under consideration, with a view to assisting the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in their appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade and, in particular, the mid-term review;

6. Invites, in the interest of harmonization, the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund, as well as the international financial and development institutions, to use, as appropriate, qualitative indicators of development in their annual reports, which are based on the areas identified in General Assembly resolution 40/179;

7. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and other relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to present an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its regular session of 1992 on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

44. The First (Economic) Committee also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

[FOR THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT DECISION, SEE REPORT OF THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION (E/1991/25, CHAP. I, SECT. A)]